Poqr transmission of DD channels

1553. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission of various Doordarshan channels is very poor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to convert the various DD channels into digital technology for better transmission; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Sir, the transmission quality of Doordarshan channels is satisfactory.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan is presently operating 22 Channels. Of these, 5 channels are in digital mode. Digitalisation of remaining channels depends on resource availability and *inter-se* priorities.

Consolidation of media budgets

1554. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consolidate the media budgets of various Ministries and Government Departments under her Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present practice; and

(c) the details of the amount placed at the disposal of different Ministries/Departments for media coverage during the last financial year and the method by which expenditure has been monitored?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No amount was placed at the disposal of different Ministries/ Departments for media coverage during the last financial year by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Uniform rate of entertainment tax in cinema halls

1555. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to have uniform rate of entertainment tax in cinema halls throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to make efforts in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) With the objective of all round development of the film industry, State Governments were, *inter-alia,* requested to consider rationalizing the rates of entertainment tax so that a uniform structure prevails in the country. For this purpose, the question of bringing the subject of cinema on the Concurrent List was also taken up with the State Governments. However, no consensus was arrived at in the matter. In the 24th Conference of States and Union Territory Ministers of Information held in New Delhi on 21.01.2001, this issue was deliberated. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Conference, a Committee was set up for Development of the Entertainment Sector, to suggest the policy framework both at the Centre and in the States for realizing the potential of the Entertainment Sector. One of the issues discussed in this Committee was the question of rationalizing entertainment tax rates. As a result of the deliberations, the Committee recommended that all States/Union Territory administrations fix a ceiling of 60% on entertainment tax. All State Governments have been requested accordingly.